



Brownfields Assessment Pilots

Sanilac County, MI

BACKGROUND

EPA has selected Sanilac County for a Brownfields Assessment Pilot. Sanilac County (population 44,547) is located on the eastern shore of Lake Huron, approximately 65 miles north of Detroit. Plant closures and declining economic development have spurred community interest in cleaning up brownfields to attract new businesses and preserve farmland and greenspace. Although the locations of hundreds of potential brownfield properties are largely unknown, most are thought to be in the county's population centers, where poverty rates have reached as high as 23.9 percent. These brownfields have contributed to urban sprawl and economic decline within the county.

Sanilac County is ranked first in the state for agricultural land use acres. Since 1992, urban sprawl, primarily northward from the Detroit metropolitan area, has claimed 14,700 acres of farmland. Three employers left the area between 1993 and 1999, taking away 6,600 full- and part-time jobs. Manufacturing utilizes 24 percent of the workforce and is the county's principle employment sector, but the average manufacturing wage is only half of Michigan's average manufacturing wage. Per capita income is \$10,330 compared to \$23,551 for the state. Unemployment in the county is 6.2 percent compared to 4.7 percent for the state, and 14.3 percent of county residents live below the poverty level.

OBJECTIVES

The county's primary objective for the pilot is to locate and inventory brownfield properties and evaluate their environmental status as a first step toward redevelopment of properties in population centers. Pilot funds will be used to inventory and prioritize approximately 50 brownfield properties in the county's population centers, complete Phase I and II environmental assessments and baseline environmental assessments on priority properties, and develop community involvement strategies initiated throughout the creation of the County Brownfield Redevelopment Authority.

PILOT SNAPSHOT



*Sanilac County,
Michigan*

Date of Announcement:
May 2002

Amount: \$ 200,000

Profile: The Pilot seeks to identify and inventory up to 50 brownfields and to perform assessment work at priority sites near communities having high unemployment and low per capita income.

Contacts:

Sanilac County Brownfields Redevelopment Authority	Regional Brownfields Team U.S. EPA Region 5
(810) 648-7000	(312) 353-0123

Visit the EPA Region 5 Brownfields web site at:
<http://www.epa.gov/R5Brownfields/>

For further information, including specific Pilot contacts, additional Pilot information, brownfields news and events, and publications and links, visit the EPA Brownfields web site at:
www.epa.gov/brownfields

ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND ACTIVITIES

Activities planned as part of this Pilot include:

- Identifying, inventorying, digitizing, and prioritizing up to 50 of the county's brownfields;
- Producing and distributing site-specific brownfields information in both hard copy and on the county's web site; and

- Completing Phase I and Phase II environmental site assessments and baseline environmental assessments at priority brownfield properties.

The cooperative agreement for this Pilot has not yet been negotiated; therefore, activities described in this fact sheet are subject to change.